



The Lowther Hall [Parents and Friends Association](#) is in its infancy and so as a Committee we have been guided by The Lowther Hall PFA Constitution. Our objectives as defined in the Constitution are:

- to build a sense of friendship between the School and the Association and its members - primarily the parent body;
- to support the school in its fundraising activities; and
- to build loyalty and strengthen the sense of community at the school.

Again, as defined in the Constitution, we will achieve these objectives by:

- welcoming new parents;
- arranging social functions;
- supporting activities that build community spirit and loyalty to the school;
- raising funds for the provision of amenities, equipment and prizes; and
- organising class and year level representatives.

This final task, organising class and year level representatives was one the Committee's first objectives. We were conscious that the success of any PFA supported events or activities would rely on the assistance of many others throughout the school. In fact as a Committee we read the Constitution as an intention by the School Council to broaden the involvement of many parents for the benefit of the school. While their efforts are to be applauded, for some time too few parents have been left to assist in organising school events and activities.

Members of the inaugural PFA Committee managed to gain the support of 37 year level representatives in 2013 and we now have 42 representatives in 2014. It is doubtless due to the enthusiasm of these parent representatives that the PFA's efforts across 2013 and 2014 have been so well received and we are assured of even more success in the future. They have made further connections within the Lowther Hall community possible, by engaging families at each year level. They have acted as Parent Mentors to new families and encouraged participation in PFA, school organised events and a wide range of out of school activities. Again I would like to acknowledge the amazing efforts of these representatives.

Year 7 Welcome Evening, Parent Forums and School Information Evenings

Our next step was to ensure the engagement of new parents to the school to the Lowther Hall Community. Having been made aware that more could be done in welcoming new families to the school, while later in the year than it ought to have been, we held a Year 7 evening in the Mansion Drawing room prior to a Parent Forum. It was received very well by those in attendance and so moving forward we have tried to engage individual levels of senior and junior school parents both prior to and after parent forums and information evenings in the Cultural Centre. These gatherings have provided an

opportunity for parents that do not normally meet at school perhaps due to the age and independence of their girls or their own family and work commitments to spend time with other parents at their daughter's year level.

The Junior School Dance Night

Tracy Thompson and Sue-Ann Bruhn reported back to the PFA committee that the Junior School Hollywood themed disco in October, 2013 was a huge success, with money raised going to the Challenge Cancer organisation. It was very pleasing to have 281 girls in attendance. The Special Events Captains, Art Captains and their mentor teachers were very involved in the organization of the disco and this worked well in terms of planning and for building enthusiasm in each classroom. There was a very good response from our class representatives to help out on the evening and this enabled a roster of people for setting up, assisting during each disco and packing up. Tracy and Sue-Ann also noted the enthusiastic response from the Junior School teaching staff with approximately 15 teachers helping with supervision for the first disco and 10 for the second disco. Considerations for future events included the timing of the event in the school calendar, length of time of the disco for the little girls and tapping into the wealth of experience and generosity within the Junior school parent group by distributing to class representatives further in advance, a compilation of things to be donated or borrowed.

The 2013 Junior School Fete

The Junior School Fete has always been a resounding success and this was the case again in 2013 with a pleasing number of families in attendance and over \$6000 raised for the school. Toni Fitzpatrick reported that food preparation went well with plenty of helping hands. Minimal items were left over with the most popular stalls noted as the snow cones, plants, books and coffee cart. Many families donated goods and services and were acknowledged directly by the school. The ability of the senior school girls to attend was warmly received especially by their siblings. The Committee discussed the difficulty logistically of having the Fete during school time. This and the spirit of community generated by the 2013 Junior Fete have led to broadening this event to become the whole school Twilight Festival in 2014.

Mrs Karen Gregg, President